to write off the outstanding loans and interest of all borrowers in the tourism, transport, small scale industry and trade sectors in the State of Jammu and Kashmir whose original borrowings were less than or upto Rs. 50,000/-. The modalities for implementation for such waiver are being worked out.

[Translation]

Industrial Units in U.P.

5654. PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether not a single industrial unit is set up in many districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to declare them as 'No Industry Districts'; and

(d) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). During the period August, 1991 to July, 1996, 78 Industrial Licences and 249 Letters of Intent were granted for setting up industries and 2573 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda were filed for setting up industries spread over various districts of Uttar Pradesh. After the liberalisation of Industrial Policy it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to create congenial 'atmosphere' and providing infrastructural facilities for industrial development of the State/district. At present Government of India have no proposal to declare any district as a 'No Industry District'.

Loan Repayment Credibility

5655. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspite of India's improved balance of payments position, there is no possibility of upgradation of India's status interms of loan repayment credibility by International Credit Rating Organisations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any request has been made to these organisations to review the status of the country in terms of loan repayment credibility;

(d) if so, whether these agencies have decided to review the status of India interms of loan repayment credibility; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). International Credit Rating Organisations undertake detailed annual reviews of India's balance of payments situation and other major economic indicators, in order to review India's Credit Rating. During recent years, the 2 major international Rating Organisations viz. Moody's and Japan Bond Research Institute, have already upgraded India to the 'investment grade'. Standard & Poor's have completed their latest review in August 1996, and their Report on the same is awaited.

[English]

Coir Industry

5656. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise the coir industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Under modernisation scheme of Coir Industry, financial assistance is extended for retting of green husk fibre in concrete tanks using 'coirret', a bacterial strain developed by Coir Board in lieu of the traditional method of immersing it in backwaters. This process will replace the natural retting of coconut husk in backwaters creating pollution of surface water and eliminate drudgery in fibre extraction.To eliminate surface water pollution due to natural retting, treatment of effluent generated during retting is also envisaged. Pith is a waste product accumulated in large quantity in the fibre production centres and creating environment pollution. Converting coir pith into organic manure by using 'pith plus', a fungus developed by the Coir Board is part of the scheme.

Polularising motorised ratt for mechanically spinning coir yarn instead of the traditional manual process, extending financial assistance for construction of loom sheds for the manufacture of coir products and setting up of Common Facility Centre for use of small units for dyeing and bleaching are also part of the scheme. For mechanised process of manufacture, financial assistance is extended for setting up of units and for modernisation of the existing coir units in brown fibre sector. The scheme envisages popularising semi automatic looms and fully automatic looms for weaving coir matting. Further, assistance for implementation of the Integrated Coir Development Project in coir producing States is also covered under the scheme of modernisation.

Under the Integrated Coir Development Project of Kerala which is the modernisation component of the cooperativisation scheme, establishment of 100 defibering units for mechanical extraction of coir fibre and 20,000

motorised ratts for spinning coir yarn are envisaged. Similar projects in other States are also being formulated.

Coir Board has extended financial assistance to 10 cooperative societies for construction of RCC tanks for treatment of green husk fibre to make golden fibre within 72 hours using coirret. Financial assistance is also extended to 34 coir units for the production of organic manure from cori pith. In addition 461 small scale units were also assisted for construction of workshed. Financial assistance is also given for setting up of Common Facility Centres. 444 women spinners were assisted for purchase of motorised ratts. Coir Board has also implemented a scheme of Mahila Coir Yojana for pupularising the spinning of coir yarn on motorised ratt. 342 coir units were assisted in the brown fibre sector amounting to Rs. 1.56 crores.

Units Registered with ACASH and State Handloom Corporations

5657. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the production capacity of units manufacturing blanket barrancks which are registered with State Handloom Corporations and ACASH;

(b) the total quantity of blanket barrack supplied by these units during the last three years, unit-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the performance of these units during these years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The production capacity of blanket barracks claimed by units registered with ACASH is given in the Statement I. Production capacity of units registered with State Handloom Corporations is not maintained by ACASH as such units effect supplies to ACASH through State Handloom Corporations.

(b) and (c). The State-wise, unitwise details of blanket barrack supplied by ACASH during the last three years are given in the Statement-II which also reflect the performance of these units.

STATEMENT I

Monthly Production Capacity for Manufacture of Blanket Barrack Claimed by Units Registered with ACASH

S.No.	State	Unit Registered With ACASH	Monthly Capacity (Nos.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	A.P. State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd.	5,000
2.	Haryana	Haryana State Handloom & Handicraft Corporation Ltd.	10,000
		Haryana Handloom Weavers Apex Coopertive Society Ltd.	20,000
		Haryana State Small Industrial Export Corporation	10,000
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir Handloom Development Corporation	10,000
		Jammu & Kashmir Handloom Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd.	5,000
4.	Madhya Pradesh	M.P. State Textile Corporation	2,500
5.	Punjab	Punjab State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd.	25,000
6.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan State Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.	2,500
7.	Uttar Pradesh	National Handloom Development Corporation	10,000
		U.P. State Handloom Corporation	5,000